



Kono District Development Association
Mouth Piece of the Kono People in the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland
Email: kddanewsletter@hotmail.com Website: www.kdda.co.uk

31st May 2012

MINUTES OF KDDA GENERAL MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY 25TH FEBRUARY 2012

VENUE: Actra Tenant Hall, 375 Old Kent Road, London SE1 5JQ

AGENDA

1. Prayers 4 minutes
2. Introductions 5 minutes
3. Minutes and matters arising from the General Meeting held on Saturday 5th November 2011 10 minutes
4. Chairman's address by Dr. Kai Ngegba 10 minutes
5. KDDA Legal Fund 20 minutes
6. KDDA Annual Fund Raising Dance report by the Social Secretary Mr. Aiah Bondowa Tondoneh 25 minutes
7. Update from The Aiah Sonsiama Fasuluku Constitutional Review Committee by Mr. Sahr Otto Fasuluku 20 minutes
8. A.O.B 26 minutes

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Chief S.Y.O. Lebbie, Miss Hilda Torto, Mrs. Sia Evelyn Nyandemo, Mr. David Dingiswayo Nyandemo, Mrs Agnes Kumba Macauley, and Mr. Charlie Macauley

PRAYERS AND MINUTES

The meeting commenced with an opening Muslim prayer by Mr. Mackie Sheik at 1755 hours. This was followed by a Christian prayer by the **KDDA** Assistant Chairwoman Madam Sia Komba. Members introduced themselves and the minute of the General Meeting held on 5th November 2011 was read by the Secretary General Mr. Aiah Yornie Sodengbe.

On matters arising from the minutes, the **KDDA** Assistant Welfare Officer Mrs. Dian Fasuluku suggested that the names of children should not be included on our attendance list. Mr. Septimus Lebbie and Mr. Albert Dugba both supported the idea of having two lists; one for adults and the other for children. Mr. Aiah Bondowa Tondoneh then said we need the names of all attendees recorded for fire safety regulations and to counter any false allegation of falsifying attendance list. At this point the Secretary General admonished members to be mindful of our responsibilities to relevant authorities and the safety of our children. He also stated that some parents may have genuine concerns which is understandable but our attendance list must always reflect the actual attendance. Due to the concerns raised, the Secretary General informed the audience that changes will be implemented at our next General Meeting to address the issues. In the absence of any other issues, Mr. Aiah Bondowa Tondoneh moved that the minutes be accepted. This was seconded by Mrs. Dian Fasuluku.

CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS

The Chairman welcomed all to discuss matters of concern in our midst and the Diaspora. He apologised to members for the delay in calling up the General meeting. This he said was due to circumstances faced by the association. The Chairman gave a synopsis of the case, OPEL Vs **KDDA** at the Lambeth County Court. He reminded the audience about the outcome of the court hearing on 12th September 2011. At that hearing, he informed District Judge Stone that Mr. Tamba Opel Pessima Sam Sumana was no longer purporting to be Chairman of **KDDA** and was not using **KDDA** emblem or letterhead to write defamatory articles about others. He also told the Judge that it was not in the interest of the association to pursue these matters any further and a new executive has been elected to take the association forward. At that point, Mr. Sam Sumana made a counter claim contesting the conduct of the elections held on 10th September 2011. The case was adjourned to 24th January 2012 and legal advice sorted as suggested by Judge Stone. The Chairman appealed to all to contribute to the **KDDA** Legal Fund.

He also informed the audience that the Executive succeeded in securing an Injunction Order against Mr. Sahr Sylvanus Sinah (Aka Aiah Sam Davies) from organising a "Pseudo general meeting" planned for 4th December 2011. This so-called meeting was to be held at the Bermondsey Methodist Church. The court did not only stop Mr. Sinah but also banned any other person acting on his behalf in encouraging others to hold such an illegal election whether on 4th December or otherwise.

District Judge Stone issued directives instead of having a full hearing on 24th January 2012. The **KDDA** legal team was led by Mr. Robert Mallet. Out of nineteen issues raised by the legal team of Mr. Sam Sumana, all but three legal issues were trashed out. The outstanding issues include membership, stepping down before elections and nominations at the elections. He appealed to members to support our case as one man can not challenge us all.

The Chairman also informed the audience that six hundred pounds was donated to **KDDA** in December 2011 by the Former Chairman of the Kono Community Mr. Augustine Tutu and thanked all former members of the group.

In another progress report, the Chairman informed the audience that nineteen mattresses have been donated to **KDDA** by Mrs Gladys Boahene. The mattresses are stored in the Chairman's garage for onward shipment to Kono District as soon as possible.

The Chairman also spoke of the need to start a language and cultural awareness programme. In his words "We are here today to identify ourselves with a place called home, or our place of interest as the case may be. To love someone/place, you need to know that person/place and know about them".

The Chairman also informed members that there will now be an annual thanksgiving service and suggested a date be agreed in April for the 2012 **KDDA** thanksgiving Service.

After his address, it was agreed that issues raised be discussed under AOB.

KDDA LEGAL FUND

The Secretary General updated the audience with the projected cost of the scheduled hearing on the 19th and 20th June 2012 as detailed by the **KDDA** solicitors. The projected cost of the adjourned hearing was estimated at around eight

thousand pounds plus value-added tax (VAT). The Secretary General urged members to help the association. At this point Mr. Sahr Otto Fasuluku briefed the audience on the current legal status of the case. Mrs. Mariam Mafinda stated the cost was huge and Mr. Albert Dugba raised concerns about the legal implications and suggested we explore a pro bono offer with the solicitors. Mrs Patricia Bondu Saffa suggested members loaned the association and their monies be refunded after the case. The Chairman stated he supports the suggestion by Mrs. Saffa. Mr. Septimus Lebbie suggested we approach our bank for assistance. Reverend Sylvester Amara suggested we contact Citizens Advice Bureau for information on companies that provide pro bono service to clients. Mr Mackie Sheik suggested we proceed with arbitration and get the case out of court. Due to the different suggestions and time limitations, it was agreed that the Executive explore all the differing views and take the appropriate action. The four different suggestions were as follows:

1. Contact our Bank for assistance
2. Contact Citizens Advice Bureau for information on Pro bono legal service
3. Members to loan the association
4. Arbitration

FUND RAISING DANCE REPORT

The Social Secretary distributed the report before his presentation. It was a detailed report that was well received by the audience. The dance was entirely funded by members and was well attended. The net profit from the project was three hundred and ninety one pounds and fifty two pence plus remaining drinks worth over six hundred pounds.

THE AIAH SONSIAMA FASULUKU CONSTITUTIONAL REVIEW COMMITTEE

The Chairman of the committee, Mr. Sahr Otto Fasuluku, in presenting his update, invited members to submit proposals via members of the committee or the **KDDA** Secretariat. He told the audience that the focus for the committee is to manage the review process in a fair, credible and transparent manner. He also told members that he is targeting March or April for the draft document to be available for consultation. In his quest for thorough clarity, a projector was used in the presentation. He reminded members that the committee was given a three prong mandate to:

1. To address gaps and vagueness in the 1998 constitution of the Kono District Development Association (**KDDA**) that have caused problems, and add provisions where lacking.
2. To draft clear objectives for the organisation, reflecting the association's purposes and intended activities.
3. To make the association's constitution fit for charity registration in the United Kingdom.

One member of the approved committee members, Mr Mohammed Sourbah, told Mr. Fasuluku that he does not wish to take part in the review. It was agreed at the meeting that his name should be omitted forthwith and the remaining committee members should be supported to carry out their responsibilities.

A.O.B

The Secretary General informed the audience about the health problems of one of our members, Mr. Samuel Foryoh, whose contact number was available on request. Mrs. Gloria Lebbie told members about the accident she witnessed while travelling to

Kono District, and urged the membership to do more in caring for our people. Reverend Sylvester Amara had similar experience and showed his foot injury scar from an Ocada accident in Kono District. It is clear that more need to be done to improve the road networks in Kono District.

The date for the **KDDA** annual thanksgiving service was agreed as Sunday 15th April 2012 at the Eagle Christian Ministry. The time set at 1500 hours and further details to be communicated to members.

The Secretary General informed the audience that YENDA Calendars were available for any reasonable fee. The Calendars were delivered by Mr. Mackie Sheik and all proceeds from the sale will go to YENDA, being a fund raising project. The Secretary General, Chairman of KDDA, Mr. Sahr Otto Fasuluku and Reverend Sylvester Amara all paid five pounds each per calendar. The remaining Calendars were handed over to Mr. Sahr Adimoinjae Mafinda.

Few KDDA Dance DVDs were distributed for sale at five pounds each by Mr. Sahr Sam. Mr. The following members are to pay for their DVDs

Mrs Gloria Lebbie

Mr. Sahr Changati Kamanda

Mrs. Dian Fasuluku

Mrs Annie Kabba

Mr. David Moiforay told the audience that some members in the North West region of London intend to organise a **KDDA** dance. He was advised to discuss with the Social Secretaries to work out the modalities.

The following members were appointed as members of the **KDDA** Cultural Awareness Committee

Mr. Sahr S. Kabba

Mr. Samuel Torto

Madam Sia Komba

Pastor Juliet Samura

Mr. Tamba B.T.Gborie

Mr. Sahr Otto Fasuluku

There were twenty nine people in attendance.

The meeting was adjourned with a closing prayer by Reverend Sylvester Amara at 2150 hours.

Thanks for your attention.



Mr. Aiah Yornie Sodengbe

Secretary General

Kono District Development Association (**KDDA**)

United Kingdom

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